

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



For Immediate Release: Oct. 15, 2004
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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

*** Public Notice ***

Flexfab LLC workers in Albion receive federal aid

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of Kosciusko County's Flexfab LLC, Flexfab Horizon International, have qualified for federal Trade Adjustment Assistance.

Administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD), the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

Located in Albion, the Flexfab plant produces silicone rubber hosing for the heavy-duty truck industry. The company is expected to close its doors in December, impacting 33 workers.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and it must be approved before benefits can be released. A petition was filed by a company official on September 14, 2004 on behalf of workers displaced at the Albion plant.

The USDOL investigation determined that job loss at the facility was a direct result of silicone rubber hose manufacturing being moved to Mexico. With the ruling, any employee who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment at Flexfab LLC, Flexfab Horizon International, on or after September 13, 2003 through two years from the date of certification is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, USDOL issued a certification for Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers Flexfab LLC, Flexfab Horizon International. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits, or a wage subsidy of 50 percent of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Information sessions for workers were held on October 13, 2004 and parties requiring further information may also contact Jackie King at the Auburn WorkOne at (260) 925-0124 ext. 235, or any WorkOne Center for more information.

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